(a) whether in course of recently concluded agreement on water sharing between India and Bangladesh from Farakka Barrage, any specific assurance was given to West Bengal Government by the Union Government for Sankosh Project of Bhutan to benefit West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the issue was raised between West Bengal Government and the Union Government during the talk;

(d) whether Bihar Government have refused to ensure additional water flow to down stream Farakka in the recent talks with West Bengal Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (c) The West Bengal Government had approached the Centre for taking effective time bound steps for augmenting the availability of water upstream of the Farakka Barrage during the lean season. In this regard reference was made to Sankosh Multipurpose Project. The Government of India had intimated Government of West Bengal that there is more than one option for augmentation of water at Farakka. A quick study will be made of all these options with special emphasis upon the Sankosh Project, and the best option would be finalised in consultation with all relevant parties. This project, as soon as it is finalised, would be taken for implementation in the IX Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e) The Government of Bihar had conveyed apprehensions to Government of India, on the Treaty coupled with increased upstream utilisation which may lead to shortage of water in Bihar.

*[English]*

**Sharing of Ganga Water with Bangladesh**

*36. SHRI A.C. JOS :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have recently entered into any agreement regarding distribution of Ganga river water;

(b) if so, the main terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether a Joint Committee has been constituted for implementation of the said agreement; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report ?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA ) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Treaty on sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka was signed between India and Bangladesh on 12th December, 1996. The main terms and conditions of the Treaty are :—

1. The Treaty remains in force for a period of 30 years and it shall be renewable on the basis of mutual consent.
2. The sharing arrangement under the Treaty shall be reviewed by the two Governments at Five years interval or earlier as required by either party and needed adjustments, based on principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party made thereto, if necessary. It would be open to either party to seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement.
3. The sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka by ten day periods from the Ist January to 31st May every year will be with reference to formula at Annexure-I and an indicative schedule giving the implications of the sharing arrangement under Annexure-I is at Annexure-II.
4. In the event flow at Farakka falls below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day periods, the two governments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis.
5. A Joint Committee shall be constituted which shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka daily flows below Farakka Barrage, in the feeder canal, and at the navigation lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.

(c) and (d) A Joint Committee as per article IV of the Treaty has been set up. This Committee has set up Joint teams for discharge observations of daily flows at Farakka on the Ganga, in the Feeder canal and in the navigations lock from Ist of January, 1997. A Joint Team has also been set up at Hardinge Bridge in Bangladesh for joint observations. The Annual Report incorporating the data collected shall be submitted after the joint observations are completed in May every year.

***Annexure I***

| Availability at Farakka | Share of India | Share of Bangladesh |
|---|---|---|
| 70,000 cusecs or less | 50% | 50% |
| 70,000 - 75,000 cusecs | Balance of flow | 35,000 cusecs |
| 75,000 cusecs or more | 40,000 cusecs | Balance of flow |

Subject to the condition that India and Bangladesh each shall receive guaranteed 35,000 cusecs of water in alternate three 10-day periods during the period March 1 to May 10.

***Annexure II***

**Schedule**

*(Sharing of waters at Farakka between January 01 and May 31 every year)*

If actual availability corresponds to average flows of the period 1949 to 1988, the implication of the formula in Annex-I for the share of each side is:

| Period | Average of total flow 1949–88 (Cusecs) | India's share (Cusecs) | Bangladesh's Share (Cusecs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | | | |
| 1—10 | 107,516 | 40,000 | 67,516 |
| 11—20 | 97,673 | 40,000 | 57,673 |
| 21—31 | 90,154 | 40,000 | 50,154 |
| February | | | |
| 1—10 | 86,323 | 40,000 | 46,323 |
| 11—20 | 82,859 | 40,000 | 42,859 |
| 21—28 | 79,106 | 40,000 | 39,106 |
| March | | | |
| 1—10 | 74,419 | 39,410 | 35,000 |
| 11—20 | 68,931 | 33,931 | 35,000* |
| 21—31 | 64,688 | 35,000* | 29,688 |
| April | | | |
| 1—10 | 63,180 | 28,180 | 35,000* |
| 11—20 | 62,633 | 35,000* | 27,633 |
| 21—30 | 60,992 | 25,992 | 35,000* |
| May | | | |
| 1—10 | 67,351 | 35,000* | 32,351 |
| 11—20 | 73,590 | 38,590 | 35,000 |
| 21—31 | 81,854 | 40,000 | 41,854 |

(*Three ten day periods during which 35,000 cusecs shall be provided).

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to club Question 36 with Question 26. I will give a chance to Kumari Uma Bharati and Shri A.C. Jos also because the two questions are similar.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you kindly look through my question, every part of it is very specific. The question pertains to the recent Ganga waters agreement with Bangladesh which was welcomed by all in this House. You may recall that on the floor of this very House I raised a specific question whether the navigability of Calcutta Port, availability of water, and the interests of West Bengal will be protected taking all these into account. The answer was very positive on the side of the Government. Now, I would like to quote from what has been stated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal who had been very much in these negotiations and who assured the people of West Bengal that the interests of West Bengal will be protected.

I quote from UNI : Mr. Basu said that the study had been made and they suggested the diversion of the Sankosh river in Bhutan through the Teesta barrage by a 143-kilometre canal to get an additional 10000 to 12000 cusecs of water for the Calcutta port. Mr. Basu further said that the entire project cost might run into about Rs. 7000 crore. He had made this request to the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and he also asked the Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haider to talk to the Bhutan King to examine the whole matter.

Now I would like to make a specific question to the hon. Minister. The entire Ganga Water Agreement was on the clear understanding between the State Government and the Government of India that releasing so much of water to Bangladesh will not affect West Bengal if the Sankosh Water Project is connected from Bhutan through North Bengal to Ganges. Now that the hon. Minister has revealed—I am thankful to the hon. Minister for exposing the truth—in the statement .. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please put the question.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am putting the question.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate. This is Question Hour. Please ask the question it you want the answer.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, I am putting the question and the question is very relevant. The hon. Minister has replied in the statement that Sankosh Project is not the only option and that there are many other options. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the other options. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the other options that are being examined for suiting the purpose of West Bengal, apart from Sankosh. This is the first question.

MR. SPEAKER : You could have put this question straightaway.

SHRI P R. DASMUNSI : How can I without narrating the background ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from Sankosh, there are various other options which are being considered by the Government and the Kosi and Brahmaputra options are prominent amongst them. Besides there are several reservoirs in the Ganga basin which receive water into from the Ganga and its tributaries. In the Monsoon season these reservoirs receive excess water we are considering the option of releasing that water in the lean season.

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1993, in reply to Shri Zainal Abedin, CPI (M) Member's question, the Government of India had replied that availability of 40,000 cusecs of water is a must for the navigability of the Calcutta port. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether before concluding this Agreement with Bangladesh you have taken the Bihar and the Uttar Pradesh Governments into confidence for the release of water because the Bihar Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav has declared that he will not release the water. He has admitted so to the effect that Bihar has denied to release the water. In that case, how are you going to ensure, firstly, the navigability of the Calcutta port and, secondly, the fulfilment of the Agreement with Bangladesh ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an agreement has been signed regarding the sharing of water released from Farakka hence there was no question of taking Bihar and Uttar Pradesh into confidence about it. It was a question of sharing of water that flows down from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to Farakka. It is true that during the lean season, these states would be urged upon and pressed to make efforts to ensure continuous flow of water.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, would you like to ask any supplementary ?

SHRI A.C. JOS : I do not have any supplementary question to ask.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the efforts towards improving our relations with Bangladesh are concerned, the entire House is with you and we too want that our friendly ties with Bangladesh should be strengthened. But the matter of sharing of water is also a very crucial one. Hon'ble Minister has given a reply here in this regard and I would like to draw his attention as well as the attention of the House towards a part of his reply. The Government of Bihar has conveyed its apprehensions to the Union Government that this treaty for ensuring additional down stream water could result in shortage of water in Bihar. How much shortage would be caused ? Whether the apprehension being expressed by Bihar is founded on facts and whether any such reaction has been expressed in Uttar Pradesh also ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told the Hon'ble Member that the water flowing through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar would not be affected. Only that water is going to be shared which flows down to Farakka. Hence all such apprehensions being expressed in the upperriparian states are unfounded.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that Bihar and U.P. were also involved at the time when responsibility was entrusted to the Government of West Bengal before signing the agreement. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether you had taken Bihar and U.P. in confidence or not ? Whether any cabinet decision had been taken before signing the agreement ? If not, what are the reasons therefor ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter was taken up in cabinet meeting before signing the Agreement. It is not as if Ministers were not taken into confidence. So far as the involvement of Chief Minister of West Bengal is concerned, the Calcutta port is going to be directly affected by the water flowing from Farakka. Hence it was in the interest of the state that the Chief Minister of West Bengal should have intervened in this matter. He is a leader of national level and it was the duty of the Government to entertain his suggestion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 27, Shri D.P. Yadav—not here. Q.No. 28, Shri Jang Bahadur Singh Patel—absent. Q. No. 29, Shri Pradip Bhattacharya—not here. Shri Banwari Lal Purohit—not here. Q. No. 38, Shri Radha Mohan Singh—absent. Shri Bhakta Charan Das—even he is not here. Q. No. 31, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma. He is very much here.

**Bridges in Assam**

*31. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new bridges on National Highways in Assam pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Two proposals for construction of new Bridges on National Highway No. 52 in Assam have been received and are under scrutiny.